

Drug Policy Advisory Council Meeting
November 13, 2008
1:00 – 3:00 p.m. – ODCP Conference Room

A press conference was held at 1:00 p.m. announcing the 2009 Drug Control Strategy.

Voting Council Members Present: Chairman Gary Kendell, Jeanette Bucklew, Cyndy Erickson, Kevin Frampton, Judge Robert Mahan, Paul Stageberg, Mary Nelson, Eric Snyder, David Lorenzen, Jane Larkin, and Chris Wilson.

Non-Voting Members Present: Stephan Arndt and Col. Mike Jensen.

Guest: Peter Komendowski.

Staff: Dale Woolery, Susie Sher and Becky Bell.

Welcome and introductions

Chairman Kendell called the meeting to order at 1:55 p.m. Board members and guests introduced themselves.

The minutes of August 14, 2008, were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Jeanette Bucklew and seconded by Kevin Frampton. The Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

Overview of 2009 Drug Control Strategy

Council members received a copy of the Executive Summary and Introduction of the Drug Control Strategy. Chairman Kendell reported that the entire document could be viewed on ODCP's website - www.iowa.gov/ODCP . Gary Kendell said that the only area trending upward significantly is prescription drug abuse. Alcohol treatment admission has also increased, to 62% from 55%. He reported that prison admissions are down but crack and powder cocaine admissions are up so the decrease in overall drug related admissions is because of the reduction of meth labs.

Chairman Kendell stated that when the 2008 youth survey is completed there will be new data relating to prescription drug use. The 2005 Survey was the first to contain questions about prescription drug abuse. The information from the 2008 Survey will not be available until the spring.

Chairman Kendell thanked everyone for their contributions with this year's strategy. He stated that this document is used by a wide variety of people.

Cyndy Erickson asked if legislation regulating Salvia divinorum would be introduced again this year. Chairman Kendell reported that it would and that it met the same fate last year as the pseudo tracking bill did. It passed the House unanimously and then got bogged down in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Discussion arose regarding underage drinking and potential legislation.

Chairman Kendell reported that hard copies of the Strategy would be mailed to Legislators.

2009 Legislative Issues

Bills to track sales of pseudoephedrine and to place Salvia divinorum on the controlled substances schedule would be filed again for the 2009 Session. Chairman Kendell reported that ODCP would also be watching a Prescription Drug Monitoring bill that will be introduced by the Board of Pharmacy. This bill would extend the June 2009 sunset of the current legislation.

Chairman Kendell stated that ODCP is waiting to hear back from the Governor's Office regarding parity. He said they are interested in it but they have not made final decisions on their legislative agenda. If it is not included this year, ODCP will keep working on it for next year. Gary noted that a parity bill was passed on the federal level.

ODCP is not going to pursue the beer tax legislation this year.

The state budget will be very tight this year. All agencies have been asked to submit status quo budgets for this year. A significant budget deficit is being projected with extra money being hard to come by this year.

On the federal level, ODCP's funding in the appropriation bill has not yet been passed. If the appropriation bill passes as is, Byrne-JAG funding will be back to where it was before the 2007 cuts.

The last two years, the Governor has put money in his budget for drug task forces and the legislature approved it, but with the flooding and budget deficit ODCP may not be as successful in getting that money.

There are some earmarks in the federal bill for various programs such as the Partnership for a Drug-Free Iowa, jail based treatment, pseudoephedrine tracking and meth interdiction teams. Earmark funding is also equally important but ODCP needs the program funding to continue operations.

DPAC Continuum of Care Committee Update

Chris Wilson reported the committee met and received information about distance treatment for gambling. The committee looked at how they might apply some of the information to substance abuse treatment.

The committee also reviewed a study that was completed by the State of Ohio regarding prevention workforce development. A similar study was completed in Iowa so the committee will be comparing the information from both studies. Ohio has developed some solid recommendations for their state in the last couple of years and has done some action planning.

Chairman Kendell reported that ODCP will be submitting earmarks for 2010 in December/January and gambling might be a good candidate for a program. He asked all council members to let him know if they have any ideas and he would be happy to partner with other state agencies.

Jeanette Bucklew reported on the possibility of an earmark for internet treatment of gambling and mental illness. The Department of Corrections uses Teledoc which is doctor video conferencing. There is two pieces of this treatment: one is the technology and the other is the willingness of the professional community to engage in delivering services.

Underage Drinking Brief

Stephan Arndt reported on the State Epidemiology Outcomes Workgroup, which is funded through a grant Iowa receives from SAMSHA. As part of a dissemination plan that was required, a report was developed. The Epidemiological report was shared with the Council at the beginning of last year. The SEOW decided to develop issue specific briefs that could be disseminated to various target audiences. The first to be developed was an Underage Drinking Brief. The target populations for the brief were county boards of health, medical and osteopathic associations and the general public. The brief will also be posted on partner organizations/agencies websites to make it downloadable and printable.

Additional discussion took place about the issue briefs.

Agency/Association Updates

Jane Larkin reported that Youth and Shelter Services is holding an event called Reggie's Sleep Out to bring awareness to youth who are homeless. She distributed brochures to council members.

Cyndy Erickson reported that she has been reviewing the Safe and Drug-Free School budgets.

Jeanette Bucklew commented on the tobacco settlement funds expiring and is concerned about all of Iowa's drug courts as they are partially or fully funded with those monies. Also a significant amount of the treatment operation budget for the clinical care unit at Fort Madison is funded with that money.

Starting in January a new custody classification system will be implemented.

The Department of Corrections received a technical assistance grant to do a three-day re-entry training event for the Department which was held in Iowa City. More than 200 people from across prison and community-based corrections system attended the training. National consultants were brought in along with the development of work teams to improve work with offenders in terms with community re-integration.

The DOC is expecting to receive an Executive Order from the Governor establishing a state-wide re-entry steering committee.

Paul Stageberg reported that representatives from the Annie E. Casey Foundation were in the state officially launching its juvenile detention alternatives in Sioux City, Des Moines and Waterloo. Over a year ago, the Governor formed a youth, race and detention task force to specially look at disproportionate minority contact in the juvenile justice system and most specifically in detention. CJJP will be receiving technical assistance from the foundation to reduce juvenile detention.

Mr. Stageberg also stated that CJJP does an annual prison population forecast and this year's trend is downward. CJJP is projecting, given the continuation of current trends, that the African American population will go up by one percent in the next ten years. The DOC currently houses around 900 offenders who are over the age of 50 and in ten years CJJP is projecting there will be around 1,300 offenders. The medical implications of this rise in number will be tremendous.

Stephan Arndt reported that the University of Iowa will be losing a fair amount of research dollars over the next year as funding has been reduced from the National Institute of Health and people are leaving/retiring and no new people are being hired to study substance abuse.

Chris Wilson stated that Central Capt and MCTC are sponsoring a substance abuse prevention specialist training.

Kevin Frampton mentioned that several will be attending the National Meth Summit in Washington, DC. Several states are putting together teams targeting three specific populations: women; people in the criminal justice system; and gay, lesbian, trans-gendered, and bi-sexual persons. Iowa was asked to put together a team. SAMSHA is paying the expenses for the team members.

Eric Snyder reported that the Iowa State Police Association just held their annual conference and most of their efforts in the last year have been geared towards officer safety and security issues.

Col. Jensen reported that their drug demand reduction programs continue to move forward. He would like to partner with other agencies that have an interest in working with elementary aged youth. The National Guard is struggling with the budget as other state agencies.

Dave Lorenzen appreciates a place at the table.

Judge Mahan reported that one district court judge is assigned to work with juvenile cases in every judicial district.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Becky Bell